Trechos do viajante Inglez William Hadfield sobre o Ceará. (*)

(Offerta do B. de Studart)

Ceará is a very sandy district, but with a good back country where many cattle are bred, but which suffers much from occasional drought. Ceará exports a fair quantity of hides, some cotton, and fustic. The town of Aracati is situated on a picturesque river, but with a very bad bar entrance, on which several vessels have been lost; they, therefore, now generally load outside, some miles higher up the coast, where an indent admits of shelter, and to which the cotton is taken in jangadas (native craft). Though the heat in this province is excessive in summer, the climate is nevertheless healthy. Its population is somewhat about 200000; and gold, as well as copper, iron and salt is among its yet very inperfectly ascertained mineral resources.

The town of Ceará is quite on the coast and has no harbour or protection beyond a reef of rocks that forms a kind of breakwater, within which vessels can ride at anchor. It is a curious thing that the reef, of which this constitutes a part, extends along nearly the whole coast of Brazil, from Cape St Roque to the Abrolhos, near Rio Janeiro, and is of the same hard coral nature.

In many places an entrance through, or a break in the reef, enables vessels to get to small ports inside, and jangadas can sail along the coast, within these reefs for hundreds of miles, entirely protected from the Sea which rolls in and breaks upon them with a deafening noise.

(*) A obra de William Hadfield intitula-se Brazil, the River Plate and the Falkland Islands. Vide pag. 96.